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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING CONTINUED FOCUS AND ACTIONS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION
BETWEEN AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EARLY
LEARNING PROGRAMS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Cano, Lawson, Pearson, Tikoian, and LaMountain

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, In 2023, the General Assembly required, and the Administration led a
2 process to review the Early Childhood Governance (ECG) structure; and

3 WHEREAS, In the final report, titled "RI Early Childhood Governance Systems
4 Analysis" released in December 2023, the ECG Working Group chose not to create a new
5 cabinet-level RI Office of Early Childhood Development and Learning; and

6 WHEREAS, The ECG Working Group decided to remain with the current "coordination"
7 governance model and outlined recommendations for ongoing improvements; and

8 WHEREAS, The ECG Working Group recommendations included:

- 9 • Implementing improved data infrastructure;
- 10 • Intra-agency coordination on guidance for problem-solving in the system;
- 11 • Engaging directly with providers and families to develop a set of metrics for
12 success;
- 13 • Establishing an annual unified budget submission and annual report on system
14 spending and performance outcomes; and
- 15 • Reviewing and updating the State's quality standards and corollary requirements
16 for professional qualifications;
- 17 • Ensuring that supports for early care and education professionals are being
18 delivered effectively;
- 19 • Implementation of a "no wrong door approach" to enrolling in programs; and

1 • Planning and implementing a strategy for cross-agency family engagement and
2 communications; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby requests that the Children’s Cabinet be
4 required to host an open meeting by September of 2024 to review these measures of progress; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Early Childhood Governance Working
8 Group, the Children’s Cabinet, Children’s Friend Board of Directors, and Early Childhood
9 Education/RI Department of Education.

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